

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
(Case No. 03-776-D)

In application of)
Light, *et al.*) Examiner: Juliet C. Switzer
Serial No. 10/646,633) Group Art Unit: 1634
Filed: August 22, 2003)
For: Detection of Human Papilloma) Confirmation No.: 9782
Virus in Papanicolaou (PAP))
Smear)

Mail Stop **Patent Ext.**
Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION OF PATENT TERM ADJUSTMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.705**

Sir:

Applicants respectfully submit the following request for reconsideration of patent term adjustment (PTA) in the above-referenced U.S. Patent Application, under a Notice of Allowance. The fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.18(e) (\$200) is submitted with this filing and no other fee relating to this matter is believed due. If other fees are associated with the instant request for reconsideration, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the fee(s) to our deposit account 13-2490.

REMARKS & REQUEST

Responsive to the Determination of Patent Term Adjustment posted on the Patent Application Information Retrieval System (PAIR) and provided with the Notice of Allowance, mailed February 13, 2009, and in light of the recent ruling in *Wyeth v. Dudas*, No. 07-1492, slip op. (D.D.C. Sept. 30, 2008) the Patentees submit this Request for Reconsideration of Patent Term Adjustment under 37 C.F.R. 1.705. As stated in 37 C.F.R. 1.705(b):

Any request for reconsideration of the patent term adjustment indicated in the notice of allowance, except as provided in paragraph (d) of this section, and any request for reinstatement of all or part of the term reduced pursuant to § 1.704(b) must be by way of an application for patent term adjustment. An application for patent term adjustment under this section must be filed no later than the payment of the issue fee but may not be filed earlier than the date of mailing of the notice of allowance.

While this application has yet to issue as a U.S. Patent, Applicants filed a request for continued examination (RCE) in the application (August 22, 2008), which is effective to cut off any further patent term adjustment that would otherwise accrue under 37 C.F.R. § 1.702(b) [see, 37 C.F.R. § 1.703(b)(1)]. This request is being submitted before payment of the issue fee (due May 13, 2009), and complies with the relevant deadline specified in 37 C.F.R. 1.705. Thus, Applicants contend this request is timely.

The data available on PAIR indicates that the instant application has been granted 452 days of Patent Term Adjustment. Applicants submit that, due to the recent *Wyeth* decision, the correct Patent Term Adjustment should be 1183 days (452 + 731 = 1183). Applicants, therefore, request that the above-captioned allowed application be granted an additional 731 days of patent term.

Applicants agree with the Patent Office's initial determination, which, for purposes of this request and in keeping with the explanation provided in *Wyeth*, Applicants will refer to as the "A delay." In the "A delay" the Patent Office delayed prosecution by issuing the first communication (Office Action, September 30, 2004) 14 months plus 579 days after the filing of the application (37 CFR 1.703(a)(1)), resulting in a USPTO "A delay" of 579 total days.

In the "A delay" the Patentees delayed prosecution by filing a response to a

Notice of Missing Parts 3 months plus 4 days after the mailing of the respective Notice (Response filed, September 27, 2003)(37 CFR 1.704(b)); by filing a response to an Office Action 3 months plus 61 days after the mailing of the respective action (Response filed, October 24, 2006)(37 CFR 1.704(b)); and again by filing a response to an Office Action 3 months plus 62 days after the mailing of the respective action (Response filed, November 12, 2007)(37 CFR 1.704(b)). Therefore the Patentees were responsible for a total of 127 days delay. These delays result in a total “A delay” of 452 days ($579 - 127 = 452$).

The Patent Office however has **not** included in the Patent Term Adjustment the days related to the “B delay,” which are the days delay resulting from an application pending longer than three years. According to 37 C.F.R. 1.703(b):

The period of adjustment under § 1.702(b) is the number of days, if any, in the period beginning on the day after the date that is three years after the date on which the application was filed under 35 U.S.C. 111(a) or the national stage commenced under 35 U.S.C. 371(b) or (f) in an international application and ending on the date a patent was issued...

The instant application was filed on August 22, 2003. As noted above, Applicants filed a request for continued examination (RCE) on August 22, 2008 which is 3 years plus 731 days after the filing date.

However, the *Wyeth* decision states that “the ‘A period’ and ‘B period’ overlap only if they occur on the same calendar day or days” (*Wyeth*, No. 07-1492, slip op. at 8). In this instance, there are no overlap periods, in which the “B delay” overlapped calendar days with the “A delay.” In this case, the USPTO is responsible for a single “A delay” which occurred within the first three years of pendency, thus there is not overlap between the “A delay” and the “B delay.” Thus, the resulting “B delay” is 731 days ($731 - 0 = 731$).

Thus, according to the *Wyeth* decision, Patentees are entitled to both the “A delay” of 579 days and the “B delay” of 731 days minus any overlap which occurs on the same calendar days (0 days), and minus any Applicant delay (127 days). Thus, the total Patent Term Adjustment due to both the “A” and “B” delays and minus any overlap and minus Applicant delay is 1183 days ($579 + 731 - 0 - 127 = 1183$).

For these reasons, the Patent Term Adjustment for this case should be 1183 days.

In light of the foregoing, the Applicants respectfully request that an additional 731 days of Patent Term Adjustment be added to the patent term for Patent Office delay, resulting in a total Patent Term Adjustment of 1183 days. If a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this Request for Reconsideration of Patent Term Adjustment, please contact the undersigned as indicated below.

Required statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.705(b)(2)(iii) – The above-referenced allowed patent application is not subject to any terminal disclaimer.

Respectfully submitted,
McDonnell Boehnen Hulbert & Berghoff LLP

Date: May 7, 2009

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